

**ABSTRACT**

A buckle assembly is described. The buckle assembly includes a buckle body having first and second openings, and first and second waist strap fasteners, each having a fastener coupling section configured to couple to the respective openings of the buckle body, each also having a shoulder strap coupling section. The buckle assembly also includes first and second shoulder strap fasteners, each having a waist strap fastener coupling section configured for coupling to the shoulder strap coupling section of the respective waist strap fastener, wherein the respective shoulder strap coupling sections and the respective waist strap coupling sections are arranged relative to each other such that, when the first and second shoulder strap fasteners are coupled to the first and second waist strap fasteners, respectively, and the buckle body is coupled to the first and second waist strap fasteners, the first and second shoulder strap fasteners are spaced from the respective openings of the buckle body and remain exterior of the buckle body.